The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee.

Rate of Accidents

823. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an editorial published in the Hindustan Times dated 26th November, 1993 to the effect that despite claims of railways of laying great emphasis on safety, there has been no let up in the rate of accidents this year, which are eroding the faith of railway passengers;

(b) whether it is a fact that in a majority of cases of derailment/train collisions the main cause seemed to be failure of those who man the signal system and not adhering to the time-teteds signal procedures; and

(c) if so, what steps /follow-up action taken by Government so far on the recommendations of enquiry commission reports submitted from time to time after every major mishap and also replacing over-used railway infrastructure etc. with details thereof?

THE MISISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. On an average, about 1.5 per cent of the total accidents occur due to the failure of staff maintaining and operating the signal system.

(c) Each and every accident is enquired into either by the Commissioner of Railway Safety or by Departmental/Inter-Departmental Enquiry Committee and based on their recommendations, remedial measures are taken. However, keeping in view the resource constraints, replacement of over-aged railway infrastructure is being carried out in a phased manner giving priority to safety.

गंज बासौदा रेलवे स्टेशन को आदर्श स्टेशन बनाया जाना

824 **श्री रामनरेश यादव** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य रेलवे के गंज बासौदा स्टेशन को आदर्श स्टेशन बनाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस रेलवे स्टेशन पर कुल कितनी धनराशि खर्च की जायेगी और भविष्य में स्टेशन के नवीकरण किये जाने सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है; क्या नवीकरण प्रस्ताव में "आरक्षण काऊन्टर' का खोला जाना भी शामिल है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० लेंका) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता । बहरहाल, गंज बसौदा रेलवे स्टेशन पर सम्हाले जा रहे अनुरूप वहां सुविधायें उपलब्ध कराई गई है । स्टेशन इमारत के सौंदर्यवर्द्धन का कार्य 5 लाख रुपए की लागत पर शुरू किया गया है जिसमें फर्श और प्रतीक्षाकक्ष में सुधार करने एवं केवल स्टेशन इमारत पर पुन: छत डालने का काम शामिल है।

Shortfall in railway freight traffic

82 . SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have incurred huge shortfall in railway freight traffic during the first six months of the current financial year in terms of performance against the budgetary target;

(b) if so, what is the extent of loss incurred by railways on this account during the first half of the current financial year as compared with the same period during the last year;

(c) what would be the position in this regard during the next half of the financial year; and

(d) what steps Government have so far taken to meet the target during the remaining period of the curren financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) There has been a shortfall of 7.30 million tonnes during the first six months when compared to budgetary target.

(b) There is a shortfall of Rs. 482 crores as compared to Budget estimates, proportionate upto September, 1993. There was an excess of Rs. 199 crores as compared to Budget estimate, proportionate upto September, 1992.

(c) It would be difficult to make precise estimate in this regard at this stage.

(d) The user departments have been requested to offer traffic according to original projections and targets. There is improvement in demand for some commodities like fertilizers, cement etc. and efforts are being made to meet the demand in full.

Mishap of suburban train in Bombay

826. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleahsed to state:

(a) whether in a suburban train mishap in Bombay recently a large number of women passengerh were killed and seriously injured;

(b) if so, what are the details of the enquiry conducted by Government into the tragic incident;

(c) whether any compensation was provided to the next of the kin of those injured; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MISISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir. On 13.10.93, some lady commuters of the 635 Dn. Ladies Special Local train going from Churchgate to Virar jumped out of the stationary train between Kandivli and Borivli stations owing to some misapprehension and panic created about a false alarm of a fire. 24 lady commuters and 1 male vendor got hit and killed by an UP Local train running through on the adjacent track. Six persons sustained injuries including 4 grievous.

(b) The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle conducted statutory inquiry into this occurrence. He has concluded that the cause of the occurrence can not be attributed either to the failure of railway personnel or railway equipment He has categorised the incidedt as 'failure of persons other than railway staff, whose, denitity could not be established.

(c) Rs. 1.38 lakhs have been paid as ex-gratia to the kith of deceased and to injured persons. Compensation will be decided by Civil Courts on claims preferred by the victims of the mishap.

(d) the recommendations made by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, in the wake of this unusual occurrence are under active consideration and examinaton of the Railway Administration.

Stoppage of Express trains at railway stations in Gujarat

827. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to accord sanction to give stoppage of Jammu-Talwi-Exp., Sarvodaya-Express, Rajdhani Express, Awadh Express and Frontier Mail trains at Surat, Godhra and Dahod Railway Stations of Gujarat State in Western Railway in current year by the 31st December, 1993;

(b) whether Government have received representations to provide more railway facilities to these most industrial and backward cities of the Gujarat State;

(c) what steps have been taken so far by Government in this context;